

**Agricultural Drift Cases¹ Reported by California Physicians as Associated
With² Pesticide Exposure Summarized by the Activity of the Exposed Person
and by the Type of Application Equipment Used
2000**

Type of Application Equipment Used ³	Type of Activity ⁴				TOTAL
	Routine Indoor	Routine Outdoor	Field Worker	Other	
Fixed Wing Aircraft	0	2	3	2	7
Helicopter	0	2	52	0	54
Ground, Boom Below/Behind	6	0	2	0	8
Electrostatic Sprayer	0	3	0	0	3
Airblast Sprayers	0	1	0	2	3
Ground, Other or Unspecified	0	5	4	9	18
Ground Boom, Other or Unspecified	0	0	1	0	1
Shank Injection with Tarps	0	0	9	0	9
Pressurized Hose-line Sprayers	58	2	4	1	65
Aerosol/Fog Generating Equipment	0	0	2	0	2
Hand, Other or Unspecified	0	0	1	0	1
Drip Irrigation Equipment	0	0	0	1	1
Automatic Equipment, Chlorinators	0	0	0	7	7
Immersion Equipment	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	64	15	78	23	180

¹ **Source:** California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program

² **Associated With:** Includes cases classified as definitely, probably or possibly related to pesticide exposure

Definite : High degree of correlation between pattern of exposure and resulting symptomatology. Requires both medical evidence (such as measured cholinesterase inhibition, positive allergy tests, characteristic signs observed by medical professional) and physical evidence of exposure (environmental and/or biological samples, exposure history) to support the conclusions.

Probable : Relatively high degree of correlation exists between the pattern of exposure and the resulting symptomatology. Either medical or physical evidence is inconclusive or unavailable.

Possible : Some degree of correlation evident. Medical and physical evidence are inconclusive or unavailable.

³ **Type of Equipment Used:** Defines the type of application equipment regardless of who performed the application. If the type of equipment is not represented on the table, there were no cases involving that type of equipment for the year of the report.

Fixed Wing Aircraft : Fixed wing aircraft.

Helicopter	: Helicopter.
Ground Boom Below/Behind	: Ground application equipment with a spray boom located below or behind the equipment operator with the spray nozzles pointed downward.
Electrostatic Sprayer	: Ground operated equipment designed to impart an electrical charge to the pesticide particles. The electrostatic designation for ground application equipment overrides any other type of equipment it is used with.
Airblast Sprayers	: Ground application equipment with a pump that delivers spray into an air stream created by a large fan at the back of the spray equipment.
Ground, Other Or Unspecified	: Ground application equipment, unknown or unspecified. This includes two or more types of ground application equipment This excludes types of ground equipment already specified above.
Ground Boom, Other Or Unspecified	: Ground application equipment with a spray boom. The following are excluded: 1) Ground Boom Below/Behind, 2) Over-The-Vine Boom, and 3) Electrostatic Sprayer.
Shank Injection With Tarps	: Ground application equipment that uses a shank or other piece of equipment to directly apply a pesticide into the soil. A tarp is placed over the soil to restrict the pesticide to the application site.
Pressurized Hose-Line Sprayers	: Hand-held spray equipment attached by a long hose to a power-pressurized tank. This excludes hose-end sprayers, which are classified under hand, other or unspecified.
Aerosol/Fog Generating Equipment	: Refillable application equipment designed to disperse pesticide as a small airborne droplet, either in confined spaces or outdoor areas. These include truck-mounted equipment for outdoor use, hand-carried portable units and wall mounted electric units that are found in dairies, restaurants, etc.
Hand, Other Or Unspecified	: Hand-held application equipment, other or unspecified. The equipment must propel the pesticide from a reservoir. This includes 1) hose-end sprayers, and 2) two or more types of hand-held application equipment. This excludes hand-held equipment already specified above.
Drip Irrigation Equipment	: Chemigation through drip irrigation equipment.
Automatic Equipment, Chlorinators	: Chlorination units that automatically inject chlorine into water for disinfection purposes. This includes chlorinators for swimming pools, packing houses and food processing plants.
Immersion Equipment	: Tanks, trays, sinks, etc. used for the dipping of animals, produce, bulbs, medical equipment, dishes, pots and pans, etc.

⁴Type of Activity: Activity of the individual at the time of exposure.

Field Worker	Works in an agricultural field performing tasks such as advising, scouting, harvesting, thinning, irrigating, driving tractor (except as part of an application), field packing, conducting cultural work in a greenhouse, etc. Researchers performing similar tasks in an agricultural field are also included.
Routine Indoor	Conducts activities in an indoor environment with minimal expectation for exposure to pesticides. This includes people in offices and businesses, residential structures, etc. who are not handling pesticides.

Routine Outdoor	Conducts activities in an outdoor environment with minimal expectation for exposure to pesticides. This excludes field workers in agricultural fields. This includes gardeners who are not handling pesticides.
Other	Activity is not adequately described by any other activity category. This includes but is not limited to: 1) being inside a vehicle; 2) dog groomers not handling pesticides; 3) individuals handling pesticide treated wood; 4) two or more activities with potential for pesticide exposure.

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About the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program Data

Pesticide-related illnesses have been tracked within the state of California for nearly 50 years. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) maintains a surveillance program which records human health effects of pesticide exposure. The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) documents information on adverse effects from pesticide products, whether elicited by the active ingredients, inert ingredients, impurities, or breakdown products. This program maintains a database, which is utilized for evaluating the circumstances of pesticide exposures resulting in illness. This database is consulted regularly by staff who evaluate(s) the effectiveness of the DPR pesticide safety programs and recommend changes when appropriate.